

Appendix F



USFWS

Delmarva fox squirrel

Intra-Service Endangered Species Act Compliance

INTRA-SERVICE SECTION 7 BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

Originating Person: Suzanne Baird, Refuge Manager, Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Signature:

Telephone Number: 410-228-2692 ext. 101

Date:

I. Service Activity (Program) and Proposed Activity – NWRS, Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge CCP/EA

Refuges are required by the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997 to complete a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and by the National Environmental Policy Act to complete an Environmental Assessment to accompany the CCP. The combined documents serve to guide refuge management decisions over the next 15 years, and inform the public and other interested parties, agencies, partners, communities of these plans. The Eastern Neck NWR CCP/EA document explains the refuge mission and goals, describes the affected environment at the time of writing, offers 3 alternatives to management, describes the environmental consequences on the major habitat types for each alternative, and summarizes the consultation and coordination with others throughout this process. The primary distinctions between the alternatives are outlined on page 101 in chapter 3 of the CCP. The document can be downloaded from the site: <http://www.fws.gov/Northeast/planning/Eastern%20Neck/ccphome.html>

II. Pertinent Species and Habitat within Action Area: (Listed species/critical habitat, proposed species/proposed critical habitat, and candidate species). Include species/habitat occurrence on a map*.

Delmarva Fox Squirrel; DFS (*Sciurus niger cinereus*)

*Species distribution is limited. There have only been one or two confirmed sightings in the past few years.

The Federal-listed endangered Delmarva fox squirrel has been present on the refuge since its introduction to the island by hunters in the 1920's. Their numbers have declined to the point where there are typically ≤ 1 sighting per year. This is not entirely unexpected because it is an island population, isolated from any other source populations. Stochastic events can drive isolated populations to extinction if there are no adjacent populations to recolonize from. For this reason, over the last several years, we have not pursued active management for this species, and together with the recovery team, have determined that the refuge population is no longer deemed essential to its recovery. It is important to recognize that Delmarva fox squirrels translocations to other sites in Kent County and elsewhere

on the Delmarva Peninsula have been very successful and the species is now on the brink of recovery.

III. Geographic area or station name and action: Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge; Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex

IV. Location (Attachment 1) - County and State; section, township, and range (or latitude and longitude); distance (miles) and direction to nearest town:

Kent County, Maryland; approximately 10 miles south of Rock Hall, Maryland. See attached map.

V. Determination of effects:

A. Explanation of effects of the action on species and critical habitats in item II. (attach additional pages as needed):

Across all three alternatives, and particularly the preferred alternative (Alternative B), we describe protection of habitat that is suitable for DFS. Additionally, the preferred alternative includes reforestation projects and maintenance of some agricultural fields that should create or maintain the ability of the refuge to support DFS if the population rebounds. None of the alternatives include impacts to mature forest that would adversely impact potential DFS populations.

B. Explanation of actions to be implemented to reduce adverse effects:

Alternatives that include agriculture may allow some management of problem animals in fields, primarily raccoons and ground hogs. Management options would be restricted to live trapping and/or shooting to assure no impact to DFS.

None of the alternatives include actions that will significantly reduce the amount of mature forest habitat for potential DFS populations on the refuge.

The refuge will take measures to reduce the use of pesticides, and utilize other management techniques where available in the invasive species and agricultural programs to ensure that there will be no effect on potential DFS populations.

A. Listed species/designated critical habitat:

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Response requested</u>
no effect/no adverse modification (species: <u>Delmarva Fox Squirrel</u> _____)	<u>X</u> *Concurrence
may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect species/adversely modify critical habitat (species: _____)	_____ Concurrence
may affect, and is likely to adversely affect species/adversely modify critical habitat (species: _____)	_____ Formal Consultation

B. Proposed species/proposed critical habitat:

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Response requested</u>
no effect on proposed species/no adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (species: _____)	*Concurrence
is likely to jeopardize proposed species/adversely modify proposed critical habitat (species: _____)	Conference

C. Candidate species:

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Response requested</u>
no effect (species: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> *Concurrence
is likely to jeopardize candidate species (species: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference

S(Ban) 12/2/2009
signature date
[Title/office of supervisor at originating station]

IX. Reviewing ESO Evaluation:

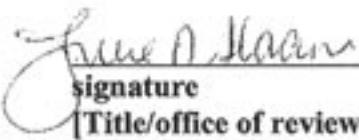
A. Concurrence X Nonconcurrence _____

B. Formal consultation required _____

C. Conference required _____

D. Informal conference required _____

E. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed): _____


June A. Haas
signature
[Title/office of reviewing official]
12/14/01
date

ATTACHMENT 1

